

2018 Iowa Community of Practice Schedule

January 9th 1-2pm	Utilizing the Positive Personal Profile to Capture & Showcase Information Learned in Discovery with Ashlea Lantz, Griffin-Hammis Associates. Why is Iowa still talking about Discovery all these years later? Because we are still learning & we value doing it better & striving for excellence in our service provision & outcomes. Learn the important components & skills sets required to provide high-quality Discovery with stories & examples, how to capture information learned in Discovery in required service documentation, & what strategies work for increasing service coordination between VR staff, CRPs, & other partners that result in increased quality of service & increased employment outcomes.
February 13th 1-2pm	Success Stories in Utilizing an Integrated Resource Team with Diane Hernandez, Workforce Development; Michelle Dickerson, Vocational Rehabilitation Services; & Shannon Myers, Department for the Blind. Learn how job seekers & CRPs who support them can collaborate with Workforce Development & other partners to utilize the Integrated Resource Team strategy. Hear success stories from Integrated Resource Team members who are supporting job seekers with disabilities, & how they leverage their resources & networks, & braid available funding to achieve employment outcomes.
March 13th 1-2pm	Intersectionality & Engaging Students, Job Seekers, & Families of Diverse Backgrounds with Reyma McDeid McCoy, CICIL, & Karen Thompson & Anahi Abarca, ASK Resource Center. Persons with disabilities constitute the largest & most diverse minority group in the country, with one in five Americans identifying as having a disability; & encompasses all ages, genders, religions, ethnicities, & socioeconomic levels. Learn what cultural competency is, how it impacts transition & supported employment outcomes, & strategies you can utilize to better engage & support diverse job seekers & their families.
April 10th 1-2pm	Thinking in Themes with Ashlea Lantz, Griffin-Hammis Associates. Focusing & relying on job descriptions can limit creativity & sets barriers to customized outcomes. Thinking in themes can open & expand our thinking to full inclusion & the unlimited ways one can make a living, can help identify a business' unmet needs, & allow employment staff & teams to explore various industries & careers with the job seekers they support.
May 8th 1-2pm	Utilizing Individual Placement & Support (IPS) to Assist Job Seekers with Mental Illness with Scott Witte, Hope Haven Rock Valley. Learn about the evidenced based practice of Individual Placement & Support Supported Employment & its eight principles, & how partners collaborate to successfully implement the model in Minnesota. Hear success stories utilizing IPS, & how partners across the state are working to bring IPS to Iowa.

June 12th 1-2pm	The Role of Systematic Instruction in Supported Employment with Dr. Sue Ann Morrow, Money Follows the Person. As Iowa strives for excellence in the provision of & outcomes in integrated employment, ongoing capacity development in supported employment competencies & skill sets is important. Learn about systematic instruction & how it can be utilized to support both the employee & business, & strategies to help figure out those long-term support needs of both, including natural supports & plans for fading.
July 10th 1-2pm	Job Development Strategies in Rural Areas with Toni Tewes & Rachel Riphagen, My Choice Employment. Job development for job seekers with disabilities & connecting with businesses in rural communities presents real & unique challenges for supported employment teams. Learn about some of the approaches & strategies being utilized in rural northwest Iowa to connect with & support businesses, matching job seekers to their unmet needs, & how employment staff get to know job seekers to effectively identify their vocational themes & support needs.
August 14th 1-2pm	Discovering the Genius of the Family with Katherine Carol, 21st Century Rehabilitation Strategies. Katherine is a speaker, author, & special needs parent with a wealth of experience as a special education teacher, school administrator, & program director for a supported employment program. Katherine speaks on topics related to the changing economic force people with disabilities, their friends, & families have become. Learn from Katherine's experiences & stories & hear the importance family & technology play in full inclusion & participation, including employment.